

Message Text

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16

ACTION NEA-12

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2774

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 4297

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR - GW, UR

SUBJECT: OBSERVATIONS ON BREZHNEV VISIT TO BONN

1. AT THE RISK OF CARRYING COALS TO NEWCASTLE, OR TO THE RUHR, THOUGHT BRIEF OBSERVATIONS ON BREZHNEV VISIT OF FRG AMBASSADOR VON LILIENFELD, WHO JUST RETURNED FROM VISIT TO BONN, MIGHT BE OF POSSIBLE INTEREST.
2. VON LILIENFELD SAID THAT HE HAD HAD OPPORTUNITY TO TALK WITH MANY FRIENDS IN BONN BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PARLIAMENTARY. THE CONSENSUS IS THAT BREZHNEV OVERPLAYED HIS HAND ON TRADE AND ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIPS QUOTE OVER THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS UNQUOTE. GERMAN INDUSTRIALISTS PARTICULARLY WERE SET OFF BY BREZHNEV'S PROPOSALS AND WERE BECOMING INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT THEY SHOULD BE MOST CAREFUL NOT TO PUT THEMSELVES IN A POSITION OF DEPENDENCE ON SOVIET UNION. ACCORDING TO VON LILIENFELD, THIS REACTION WAS EXACTLY WHAT BREZHNEV DID NOT RPT NOT WANT.
3. AS FOR BREZHNEV'S ATTITUDE TOWARD WEST BERLIN, VON LILIENFELD SAID, QUOTE HE DROPPED HIS MASK OF FRIENDLINESS AND CHANCELLOR BRANDT WAS SHOCKED AT HIS APPROACH UNQUOTE. APPARENTLY THERE WAS SOME TOUGH GIVE AND TAKE AS RESULT OF WHICH BREZHNEV YIELDED MILDLY AND GRUDGINGLY TO

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BRING ABOUT THE AGREEMENTS ON WEST BERLIN WHICH EVENTUATED FROM
THE VISIT. ONE OF THESE WAS THAT THE FRG REPRESENTATIVE TO
THE UNITED NATIONS WILL BE EMPOWERED TO REPRESENT WEST
BERLIN ON CERTAIN LIMITED MATTERS NOTABLY EXCLUDING
SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS. VON LILIENFELD NOTED THAT BREZHNEV' S
ATTITUDE ON WEST BERLIN HAD EVEN ROCKED PEOPLE LIKE EGON
BAHR AND THAT THE BARGAINING HAD BEEN A HEALTHY LESSON
FOR THE FRG GOVERNMENT ACROSS THE BOARD.
HELMS

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NNNNMAFVVZCZ

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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